

**To:** Whitley, Christopher[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]  
**From:** Quirarte-Ortiz, Cecilia  
**Sent:** Mon 5/19/2014 9:06:43 PM  
**Subject:** RE: OPA Daily Digest, 5/19/14

Posted

**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2014 4:00 PM  
**To:** R7 Daily Digest Group  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest, 5/19/14  
**Importance:** High

### **OPA Daily Digest for 5/19/14**

#### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Sen. Deb Fischer** (Neb.) – Letter – 5/13/14: Constituent concerns about claim for payment from EPA regarding work done at the Madison County Superfund site. Due: 5/21/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Claire McCaskill** (Mo.) – Letter – 5/2/14: Constituent concerns about the Strecker Forest/Bliss Ellisville site removal action. Due: 5/16/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

#### **State Government Inquiries:**

**Rep. Bill Otto** (Mo) – 5/13-15/14: Multiple questions on the West Lake site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

#### **Press Inquiries:**

**Wall Street Journal** – John Emshwiller – 5/6/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**Pitch Weekly, Kansas City** – Steve Vockrodt – 5/14/14: Questions about environmental enforcement history of the Kansas City International Airport. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KTVI Channel 2, St. Louis** – Bonita Cornute – 5/19/14: Questions about the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex and the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KMOX Radio, St. Louis** – Kevin Killeen - 5/19/14: Questions about the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex and the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

**KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis** – Grant Bissell - 5/19/14: Questions about the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex and the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KMOV Channel 4, St. Louis** – Russell Kinsaul - 5/19/14: Questions about the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex and the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch** – Blythe Bernhard - 5/19/14: Questions about the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex and the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

## **Environmental Stories:**

**KMOX Radio, St. Louis – EPA to Begin Radiation Testing Near Bridgeton Ballfields** – 5/19/14 - The EPA today starts testing around the Bridgeton ballfields in an effort to ease the fears of parents. They may not be able to ease those fears, though. Some people are still unsatisfied that the EPA won't test a nearby drainage ditch that's apparently a play area for kids. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/05/19/epa-to-begin-radiation-testing-near-bridgeton-ballfields/>

**KMOV Channel 4, St. Louis – EPA begins testing soil at baseball complex near Bridgeton landfill** – 5/19/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency will conduct radiation testing at a baseball complex near a suburban St. Louis landfill where nuclear waste is buried, after private testing raised concerns. Testing at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex begins Monday. It is not known when results will be available. <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/EPA-to-test-soil-at-baseball-complex-near-Bridgeton-landfill-259774901.html>

**KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – EPA begins testing for radiation around West Lake Landfill** – 5/19/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency will begin conducting tests for radiation in surrounding areas around West Lake Landfill. A group of moms here in Bridgeton took matters into their own hands and conducted their own testing at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/05/19/epa-radiation-tests-west-lake-landfill/9275267/>

**Douglas County (Mo.) Herald – New EPA Standards Would Kill Missouri Jobs – 5/16/14 – (GUEST EDITORIAL by U.S. Rep. Jason Smith) -** Nothing kills jobs faster than a Washington regulation. Since my election to Congress last June, I have fought unnecessary and intrusive Washington regulations that are out of step with our rural way of life in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District. <http://www.douglascountyherald.com/2014/05/smith-report-5-15-2014/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Company, EPA lapses lead to hazards on Eleven Point River – 5/17/14 -** Signs of industry were everywhere: the hulking petroleum tanks, the steam, the barbed wire — all next to the Eleven Point River in the Ozarks of southern Missouri. Coastal Energy Corp., which sells asphalt and other chemicals for road maintenance and building waterproofing, has operated at the river's headwaters since 2002, without controversy — until this winter, when local environmental activists Tom Kruzen and Don Horton heard news of a disastrous chemical spill in Charleston, W.Va., that fouled the drinking water of 300,000 people. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/company-epa-lapses-lead-to-hazards-on-the-eleven-point/article\\_f9fbcaf6-b469-5706-bd8d-ceade791be08.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/company-epa-lapses-lead-to-hazards-on-the-eleven-point/article_f9fbcaf6-b469-5706-bd8d-ceade791be08.html)

**KSHB Channel 41, Kansas City – Buzz continues over why bees keep disappearing – 5/18/14 -** A new U.S. Department of Agriculture report shows bees continue disappearing at an alarming rate. One Missouri beekeeper lost half his hives. "For me, it has been the worst year," said Don Tilman. That is a big statement for a man who has been beekeeping for fifty years. <http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/keeping-bees-still-a-struggle>

**The Columbia Missourian (blog) – Rising Electric Rates – 5/17/14 -** The price you pay for electricity is going to increase. At least that's if Ameren Missouri has anything to say about it. The utility announced it will seek another rate hike this July. That is in addition to a request it has already filed with the Public Service Commission for a monthly fuel adjustment surcharge increase of 66 cents. [http://www.emissourian.com/opinion/article\\_1a4520e6-dbf6-5e30-b3df-98996e7ad151.html](http://www.emissourian.com/opinion/article_1a4520e6-dbf6-5e30-b3df-98996e7ad151.html)

**Old North St. Louis (blog) – Old North House and Community Tour – 5/16/14 -** The biggest award, however, came from U.S. EPA, which presented Old North with their National 2011 Overall Excellence Award for Smart Growth Achievement. **Old North is the only neighborhood to receive this distinction in the entire Midwest.** The only other overall award-winner in the Midwest was the whole greater Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area in 2006. <http://onsl.org/blog/2014/05/old-north-house-community-tour-more-reasons-to-attend-than-a-top-10-list-can-contain.html>

**Insurance Journal – Increase in Oklahoma Tremors a Cause for Concern, Authorities Say – 5/19/14 -** The rate of earthquakes in Oklahoma has increased by about 50 percent since October 2013, significantly increasing the chance for a damaging quake in the central part of the state, federal and state agencies said. The U.S. Geological Survey and Oklahoma Geological Survey reported that 183 earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or greater occurred from October 2013 through April 14. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/magazines/features/2014/05/19/329016.htm>

**Kansas City Star – Ask Angie: What do you do if you discover lead paint? – 5/19/14 -** Dear Angie: My husband and I are expecting a baby. We used a home test to check for lead in chipping exterior paint around our home's windows and it came back positive. We can't afford to de-lead the entire house right now. What do you suggest? <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/05/19/5032757/ask-angie-what-if-you-discover.html#storylink=cpy>

**Business Mirror – Bee Deaths Prompt Calls for US to Ban Some Pesticides – 5/17/14 -** TWO years ago, Steve McDaniel's bees started dropping like flies. "This has all the marks of a pesticide kill," he said, describing the piles of dead bees that appeared outside his hives. "It's the only thing that makes sense." <http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/en/features/biodiversity/32275-bee-deaths-prompt-calls-for-us-to-ban-some-pesticides>

**High Plains Journal – Climate Report: Changes Disrupt Americans' Lives – 5/16/14** - Global warming is rapidly turning America the beautiful into America the stormy, sneezy and dangerous, according to a new federal scientific report. And those shining seas? Rising and costly, the report says.

[http://www.hpj.com/archives/2014/may14/may19/6\\_Star\\_MidWest\\_Ag\\_0513ClimateLDsr.cfm?t=Climate-report:-Changes-disrupt-Americans'-lives](http://www.hpj.com/archives/2014/may14/may19/6_Star_MidWest_Ag_0513ClimateLDsr.cfm?t=Climate-report:-Changes-disrupt-Americans'-lives)

**WNAX Radio, Yankton, S.D. – Nebraska Congressman Has Problems with EPA Rules – 5/19/14** - The concern over the regulatory overreach of the Environmental Protection Agency is a resounding theme in Washington D.C. right now. The agency has a long list of proposed regulations that are drawing fire from farm groups and lawmakers. Nebraska Congressman Adrian Smith says as he has traveled the state and talked to constituents... this is their top priority. <http://wnax.com/news/180081-nebraska-congressman-has-problems-with-epa-rules/>

**Omaha World-Herald – UNL Researchers are Well-Schooled in the Science of GMOs – 5/19/14** - The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is among the nation's leaders in research on genetically modified organisms, and most agricultural scientists at the school back the work as a way to help farmers safely feed a hungry world. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20140519/MONEY/140518693/1685>

**Daily Yonder – Roundup: The Sage Grouse Face-Off – 5/16/14** - The fight to protect the sage grouse is heating up in some Western states. Environmentalists would like to see tens of millions of acres of grouse country made off-limits to developers, ranchers and energy companies. "The sage grouse is an umbrella species, so it's sort of the canary in the coal mine," said Randi Spivak, the public-lands program director at the Center for Biological Diversity. <http://www.dailyyonder.com/roundup-sage-grouse-face/2014/05/16/7407>

**NetNebraska.org – Do We Need This Government Agency? 'Let Me Google That' – 5/18/14** - Why would anyone pay for something when the exact same thing is available for free? The answer seems obvious, yet the question remains relevant for an obscure federal agency still pursuing its Cold War mission in the age of the search engine. Say you wanted to know more about supersonic retro-propulsion wind tunnel testing. <http://www.netnebraska.org/node/917411>

**Huffington Post – The New Populists – 5/19/14** - Few people in this era, even the political junkies who pore over the red and blue political maps and know all the swing states, are aware that at one time in American history the rural Midwest was the center of progressive economic revolt. States like Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas in the late 1800s and early 1900s were dominated by firebrand populists who created state banks like the one that still serves North Dakota well; fought for nationalizing the railroads and phone companies; and demanded a shorter workday and a progressive income tax. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-lux/midwestern-uprising-the-n\\_b\\_5352906.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-lux/midwestern-uprising-the-n_b_5352906.html)

**Greeley (Neb.) Tribune – New Evans Mayor settles in for long task of flood recovery – 5/16/14** - John Morris was already considering a run for Evans mayor when the September flood literally shook the foundations of his home and those of his neighbors. Some might have looked at the devastation, including hundreds of displaced residents from obliterated mobile home parks and millions of dollars in damage done to the city's infrastructure, and turned the other way. <http://www.greeleytribune.com/news/ticker/11267477-113/evans-morris-mayor-council>

**Artesia Daily Press – EPA mulls ethanol change as industry profits soar – 5/19/14** - As ethanol producers see some of their most profitable months ever, the federal government is considering whether to lower the amount of the corn-based fuel that must be blended into gasoline. <http://www.artesianews.com/916958/epa-mulls-ethanol-change-as-industry-profits-soar.html>

**WHO Channel 13, Des Moines – Flood Control: More Funding for Iowa – 5/19/14** - Iowa senator Tom Harkin announced Monday two major flood control projects will be able to move forward thanks to more congressional funding. A Congressional Conference Committee agreed to authorize more than \$88 million for Iowa projects. The bill establishes a five-year pilot program so the Corps of Engineers and the

EPA can fund water infrastructure. <http://whotv.com/2014/05/19/flood-control-more-funding-for-iowa/>

**Caffeinated Thoughts – Iowa U.S. Senate Candidate Profile: Q&A with Mark Jacobs – 5/19/14 - 1.**  
What's the most rewarding job you've held? Mark Jacobs: "Husband and father. I think at the end of the day that's the fabric of who we are as a people." 2. First job you ever had? Jacobs: "Delivering newspapers for the Des Moines Tribune and then the Des Moines Register."  
<http://caffeinatedthoughts.com/2014/05/iowa-u-s-senate-candidate-profile-qa-mark-jacobs/>

**Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette – Iowa Senate 27: Dietz, Junker both want less government – 5/17/14** - Shawn Dietz and Tim Junker, Republican candidates for the District 27 Iowa Senate seat, agree on most issues but have different approaches to problem solving. They will face each other in the June 3 primary. The winner will run against incumbent Sen. Amanda Ragan, D-Mason City, in the November election. [http://globegazette.com/news/local/iowa-senate-dietz-junker-both-want-less-government/article\\_fa3e97-e49e-5011-8205-0257ec1cff0d.html](http://globegazette.com/news/local/iowa-senate-dietz-junker-both-want-less-government/article_fa3e97-e49e-5011-8205-0257ec1cff0d.html)

**Domestic Fuel – Biodiesel Producer Certain Uncertainty Will End – 5/19/14** - The manager of a biodiesel refinery from the Nation's largest biodiesel producer believes the uncertainty in the green fuel's future will disappear. I caught up with Bryan Christjansen, a general manager for Renewable Energy Group's Albert Lea, Minn. and Mason City, Iowa plants, shortly after a news conference.  
<http://domesticfuel.com/2014/05/19/biodiesel-producer-certain-uncertainty-will-end/>

**High Plains Journal – EPA's McCarthy Attempts to Build Bridges with Ag Community – 5/19/14** - After being roundly criticized by many farm organizations for new proposals dealing with clean water and proposed changes in the Renewable Fuel Standard, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sat down in a USDA briefing room recently with a clear message for the agriculture community: Let's be friends. <http://www.hpj.com/archives/2014/may14/may19/0512AgriPulse1tables.cfm>

**Ames (Iowa) Tribune – Washington Digest: Senate hits brick walls on taxes, energy efficiency – 5/17/14** - The Senate continued to stumble last week, failing to make progress on bills that would cut taxes and encourage energy efficiency. Senate leaders hit another impasse over what if any amendments would be debated on those bills even as they enjoyed bipartisan support. Consequently, each failed to gain the 60 votes necessary to advance. <http://amestrib.com/news/politics/washington-digest-senate-hits-brick-walls-taxes-energy-efficiency#sthash.djcrDTeW.dpuf>

**KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – Residents under voluntary evacuation in Jefferson County – 5/16/14** - Dozens of homes are threatened by a dam that may breach between De Soto and Hillsboro. Residents of nearly 40 homes near Castle Ranch Road in Jefferson County are under a voluntary evacuation.  
<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/05/16/castle-ranch-road-voluntary-evacuation/9201461/>

**Topeka Capital-Journal - Report shows high hydropower potential, some Kansas skeptical 5/17/14** - A report from the U.S. Department of Energy showed Kansas has enough untapped hydropower to power the entire state, but that isn't likely to happen due to physical and legal challenges.  
<http://cjonline.com/news/business/2014-05-17/report-shows-high-hydropower-potential-some-kansans-skeptical>

**The State – KDHE Says Lead Levels Higher in Cherryvale – 5/18/14** - Recent lead levels among children tested in a southeast Kansas town that was home to a zinc smelter were "significantly" higher than statewide and national levels, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.  
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/18/3453458/kdhe-says-lead-levels-higher-in.html#storylink=cpy>

**WIBW Radio, Topeka – KDHE Reports Higher Lead Levels in Cherryvale – 5/18/14** - Kansas health officials say recent lead levels among children tested in a southeast Kansas town were significantly higher than statewide levels. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment says tests conducted from 2005 to 2012 showed children tested in Cherryvale had a mean blood lead level of 4.54 micrograms per

deciliter. <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/KDHE-Reports-Higher-Lead-Levels-In-Cherryvale--259731481.html>

**Agri-Pulse – Iowa’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy Gaining Farmer Awareness, Participation – 5/19/14 -** Farmers are increasingly familiar with the state's nutrient reduction strategy and nearly three of four plan to implement practices included in the strategy this year according to a just-completed survey by Agri-Pulse and Iowa Soybean Association. <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Iowas-nutrient-reduction-strategy-gaining-farmer-awareness-participation-05192014.asp>

**Des Moines Register – Green Fields: Agriculture Blamed for ‘Superweed Crisis’ – 5/17/14 -** Agribusiness companies including Monsanto and Dow AgroSciences are creating a “superweed crisis” by producing new technologies that are compounding weed resistance, according to an advocacy group. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/green-fields/2014/05/18/superweed-crisis-monsanto-roundup-ready/9208215/>

### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**None**

### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

**None**

### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**5/20-21/14** – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

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**\*6/3/14** – Asthma Awareness Month Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

**6/4/14** – Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Visit, Regional Office. Contact: Deandre Singletary, 7373

**6/5/14** – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

**6/12/14** – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7373

**6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**\*7/11/14** – Joing R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**DRA:**

**5/20-21/14** – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

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**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

**5/19-23/2014** – Participating National Corrective Action Lean Event for Corrective Measures Study (CMS) phase, Washington, DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

**CNSL**

None

**ECO/EJ**

None

**ENSV**

None

**PLMG**

None

**RA/OPA**

**9/29-30/14** - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

**SUPR**

None

**WWPD**

**\*5/19/14** – Metropolitan Sewer District Sewer Tunnel Construction Completion Event Visit, St. Louis, Mo.  
Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**\*5/19-21/14** – Blackbird Bend Casino Water System Site Visit on the Omaha Tribe Reservation, Onawa, Iowa.  
Contact: Kimberly Willis, 7069



**\*6/2-6/14** – Public Water Supply System Program Evaluation at Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036